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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

P 221258Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7641

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6963

DECAPTIONED

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: NOTE PROTESTING TREATMENT OF US CITIZENS IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) STATE 260647, (B) BUENOS AIRES 6871

1. I AGREE WITH SUBSTANCE OF NOTE TRANSMITTED IN REF A. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT FOR REASONS GIVEN BELOW IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PRESENT NOTE IN WASHINGTON.

2. MOST IMPORTANTLY, AS I SUGGESTED IN REF B, THERE IS ALREADY A TENDENCY IN THE GOA--WHICH HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY GUZZETTI'S REPORT ON HIS TRIP TO U. S.--TO BELIEVE THERE IS NO REAL PROBLEM WITH USG ITSELF OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. AT THIS POINT, NOTE PRESENTED BY EMBASSY WOULD PROBABLY BE TREATED SIMPLY AS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF WHAT THEY PROBABLY SEE AS EMBASSY'S OWN "ESAGGERATED CONCERN" OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESENTATION OF NOTE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE FAR MORE CONVINCING, HAVE MORE PUNCH AND COULD HELP TO CORRECT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW GUZZETTI BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS TRIP. (THIS WAS DOUBTLESS A CASE OF GUZZETTI SEEING ONLY WHAT HE WANTED TO SEE, BUT RESULTS, NEVERTHELESS, ARE THE SAME.)

3. FURTHER, PRESENTATION OF NOTE HERE COULD UNDERCUT OUR FUTURE ABILITY TO GET OUR CITIZENS RELEASED. PRESIDENT VIDELA GAVE ME HIS WORD THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full)
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to) _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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TO RESOLVE ERB AND LOKEN CASES TO OUR SATISFACTION--I.E., THAT HE WOULD HAVE THEM EXPELLED. HE KEPT HIS WORD. THIS IN NO WAY EXCUSES OR CANCELS OUT TREATMENT ACCORDED GWENDA MAE LOKEN OR FACT THAT CONSULAR ACCESS WAS DENIED IN WEEKS CASE. THESE ARE SERIOUS MATTERS WHICH INDEED WE SHOULD NOT SIMPLY DROP. IT DOES ARGUE, HOWEVER, AGAINST PRESENTATION HERE. SHOULD I PRESENT SUCH A NOTE NOW, AFTER VIDELA DEPT HIS WORD TO ME, HE WOULD PROBABLY SEE IT AS A VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THAT WORD WAS GIVEN. IT WOULD UNDERMINE MY POSITION WITH HIM--WHICH IS AN ASSET WORTH PRESERVING--AND WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE HIM FAR LESS READY TO COOPERATE WITH ME IN FUTURE CASES. PRESENTATION OF NOTE IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, WOULD LEAVE MY POSITION WITH PRESIDENT INTACT. WE HAVE HAD SUCCESS SO FAR IN GETTING OUR CITIZENS OUT OF JAIL (AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY). I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
HILL

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